

Message Text

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73

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-04 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

INT-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-25

DRC-01 /168 W

----- 095456

R 171725Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8785

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 0909

ADFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT TO SIXTH REGION OF MALI

REF: A. STATE 070797 B. STATE 074267 C. BAMAKO 0790

1. RE PARA 4, REF B. I HAD EARLIER SAID TO DOUKARA THAT I WAS NOT CLEAR IN MY MIND AS TO SHIPPING PROCEDURES FROM COTONOU TO SAO SINCE COTONOU AND NIAMEY KEPT REFERRING TO SOCOTRA WHEREAS HE DOUKARA ALWAYS REFERRED TO SOCOPAO. WOULD HE EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COMPANIES.

2. DOUKARA RESPONDED BY REMINDING ME THAT HE HAD OFTEN SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT SIMPLE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS TRUE THAT SOCOTRA WAS THE FORWARDING AGENT ON THE COAST, BUT SOCOTRA DID NOT OPERATE IN MALI AND THEREFORE HAD TO SUBCONTRACT TO SOCOPAO. HE CONTINUED THAT HE WAS VERY FAMILAR WITH SOCOPAO. AND KNEW WHAT THEY COULD AND COULD NOT DO. HE SAID THAT LAST YEAR HE HAD TRIED TO USE SOCOPAO TO DISTRIBUTE POWDERED MILK FROM THE FRG IN THE SIXTH REGION AND,
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WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, THAT THEY HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN

ABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR CONTRACT. HE CONTINUED THAT SOCOPAO OFTEN BRINGS COMMODITIES INTO BAMAKO AND NEGLECTS TO INFORM THE GOM OF THEIR ARRIVAL WITH THE RESULT THAT THE COMMODITIES SIT AROUND IN WAREHOUSES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THIS WAS THE REASON, HE SAID, THAT HE WAS RESERVED ABOUT THE UTILIZATION OF THE COTONOU/NIAMEY/GAO ROUTE AND HIS INSISTENCE ON DETAILED ASSURANCES AS TO HOW THE SHIPMENTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

3. DOUKARA AGAIN RAISED THE QUESTION OF FUEL SUPPLIES, NOTING THAT THERE WAS JUST BARELY ENOUGH FUEL IN THE SIXTH REGION TO SUPPLY MALIAN ARMY TRUCKS AND HE REFERRED TO THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING FUEL TO THE REGION. HE SAID THAT HE SHIPS AS MUCH FUEL AS POSSIBLE BY BARGE DURING THE PERIOD THE RIVER IS NAVIGABLE IN ORDER TO HAVE SUFFICIENT STOCK ON HAND FOR GOM ARMY TRUCKS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT THE FRG WAS SUPPLYING FUEL TO GAO FROM COTONOU ON A GRANT BASIS AND SHIPPING IT IN TANKER TRUCKS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS BEING A GIFT FROM THE FRG. HE SAID THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT MALI HAD DIFFICULTY TRANSPORTING FUEL THROUGH NIGER BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER OFTEN CONFISCATED COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS OF FUEL, THOUGH PAYING FOR THEM, FOR THEIR OWN USE. OF COURSE, HE SAID, THE GON WOULD NOT CONFISCATE A GIFT FROM ANOTHER GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: IF TRUE, AND EMBASSY HAS HEARD THIS STORY AS A RUMOR BEFORE, THIS MIGHT WELL EXPLAIN DOUKARA'S CONTINUED INSISTENCE IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ME ON ASSURANCES THAT FUEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONVOYS FROM COTONOU TO GAO.

5. ABIDJAN AND COTONOU MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON DOUKARA'S DESCRIPTION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCOTRA AND SOCOPAO.

6. THIS TELEGRAM NOT SENT TO NIAMEY BECAUSE OF MINIMIZE THERE BUT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT IT.
MCGUIRE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, GASOLINE, SUPPLIES, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, TRUCKING COMPANIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAMAKO00909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740089-0251
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740438/aaaabhod.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 070797 B. STATE 074267 C. B, AMAKO 0790
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSPORT TO SIXTH REGION OF MALI
TAGS: EAID, ML, (SOCOTRA), (SOCOPAO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005